

Newsletter

Issue 2 – January 2021

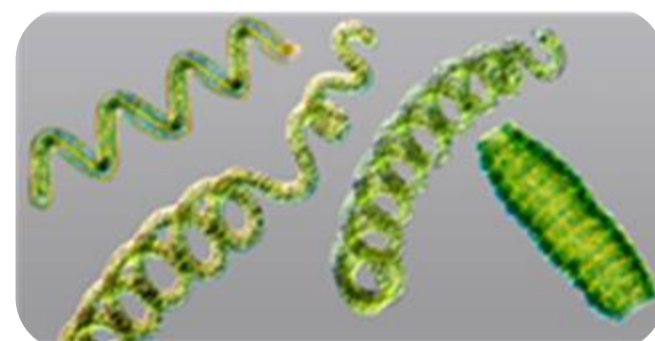
Editors NOTE ...

As for most projects, SPIRALG managed the COVID situation with the best practices possible. Since most partners are registered in the Agri-food sector, actions remained as planned. However, transport, material replacement and recruitments experienced delays which are however slowly being corrected. 2020 was also marked by the appointment of a new coordinator by the SPIRALG Steering Committee. Franck HENNEQUART, Director for Research & Innovation in ALGAIA (Fr) jointly with Maud BENOIT and Benoit QUEGUINER will soon take the lead on SPIRALG. Initially in charge of investigating bioactive compounds in Spirulina co-products as partner of the SPIRALG project, the Alagai team will now pilot the progress of the whole program. A huge thanks Franck, Maud and Benoit for keeping the consortium together and to bring SPIRALG to its final success !



Where are we ?

SPIRALG is approaching the +36 months of the project. Although a huge amount of data has been collected and good results are paving the way to the expected achievements, several challenges still have to be tackled. For instance, Phycocyanin content varies naturally through the seasons and between production ponds. Working to maintain these to a high and stable level without affecting sustainability parameters (LCA), is an important issue for the overall success of SPIRALG. On the other hand, the final question of value is still pending, whether phycocyanin is the most valuable fraction, or active co-products for health (plant, animals, humans) or even simply the quality labelled Spirulina biomass.... A global approach on all these complex matters is necessary to finger out one or several economically versus environmentally viable options. The story will soon tell !



Current ACHIEVEMENTS and PROGRESS

WP1: Stabilisation of phycocyanin content in the Spirulina biomass

WP2: Pilot scale phycocyanin extraction and stabilisation (see [highlight-1](#))

WP3: A positive hit for anti-oxidant activity (see [highlight-2](#))

WP4: Consumer analysis in the USA, Canada and EU finalised.

WP5: Static LCA is not sufficient for modelling Spirulina production : undergoing dynamic LCA

WP6: SPIRALG consortium meeting in Paris, despite the COVID (see [highlight-3](#))

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HIGHLIGHT - 1

GREENSEA & ALGAIA stabilises co-products



Pilot scale testing involves the transport of large volumes of co-product obtained after phycocyanin extraction. Greensea and Algaia worked hand in hand in order to develop a specific stabilisation protocol able to preserve the coproducts during transport and without affecting the potentially bioactive compounds.

More info, contact : Thibaut.michel@greensea.fr

HIGHLIGHT - 2

ALGAIA presents a hit on bioactivity test



Algaia specialises in the production of algal products for food and for plant & animal health. By undergoing bioactivity trials on Spirulina co-products, obtained after phycocyanin extraction, the R&D team based in St-Lô (Fr) obtained a positive anti-oxydant hit with interesting applications for animal health. Further tests are required to lead this result to pilot scale.

More info, contact : maud.benoit@algaia.com

HIGHLIGHT - 3

SpiralG consortium met despite the COVID



Consortium member representatives met in Paris on October 6th 2020. This meeting was possible just before the second lock-down. This face to face meeting was a necessity due to several staff changes within SPIRALG (Greensea, Mial). Besides the change of coordination from Greensea to Algaia, the consortium members welcomed **Dr Ahmed MOHAMMED** from Mial (bottom right) and **Dr Yves BRUNEL** from Greensea (bottom left).



The new coordinator, Franck HENNEQUART smoothly took the lead by targeting strategic actions to implement in order to achieve the expected goals.



Communication is ongoing...

The COVID situation has clearly affected the planned conferences SPIRALG partners were to attend. However, latest results and basic communication activity was maintained through a series of virtual events (EABA webinars, LCA Food, Algae Europe, NUTREVENT....)

ALGAEUROPE 2020 GOES ONLINE

ALGAEUROPE 2020
December 2nd, 2020
3 pm CET
Maud Benoit- Algaia Services

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